

providing at least one expansion card for coupling with the expansion slot, including providing at least one port as an interface for the computer.

Please add new claims 52 and 53:

52. (New) A device for expanding a computer interface, comprising:  
an upstream connector for connecting to a computer through a Universal Serial Bus (USB) using a USB protocol, wherein the device is external to the computer;  
a PCI bus structure having a PCI protocol;  
a bus control module connected to the upstream connector and to the PCI bus structure, wherein the bus control module is adapted to provide a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol; and  
a master slot and at least one slave slot connected to the PCI bus structure.

53. (New) A method for expanding a computer interface, comprising:  
providing PCI bus structure in a device external to a computer, wherein the PCI bus structure has a PCI bus protocol;  
providing a master expansion slot and at least one slave expansion slot connected to the PCI bus structure;  
using a USB protocol to communicate between the device and the computer; and  
converting the USB protocol to the PCI bus protocol.

**Remarks**

Claims 1, 14, 15, 32, and 36-43 have been amended, and new claims 52-53 have been added. Support for new claims 52-53 is found in the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added.

Examination of pending claims 1-53 is respectfully requested.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney if there are any questions concerning this application or Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDREW FRANK

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.  
P.O. Box 2938  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 373-6960

Date 6-4-02

By Marvin L. Beekman

Marvin L. Beekman  
Reg. No. 38,377

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 5 day of June, 2002.

Candis B. Buending

Name

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